

427 & 429 Seventh Street, NW  
(George and Company)  
Washington  
District of Columbia

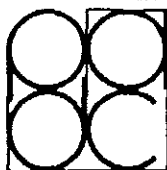
HABS No. DC-606

HABS  
DC,  
WASH,  
346-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127



PENNSYLVANIA  
AVENUE  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

425 15TH STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

GENERAL CONSULTANTS

ANDERSON NOTTER / MARIANI  
GENERAL PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT  
DEVROUX & PURNELL  
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS  
DAVID McLAREN HART & ASSOCIATES  
PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT  
MONK DUNSTONE ASSOCIATES  
COST ESTIMATING CONSULTANT

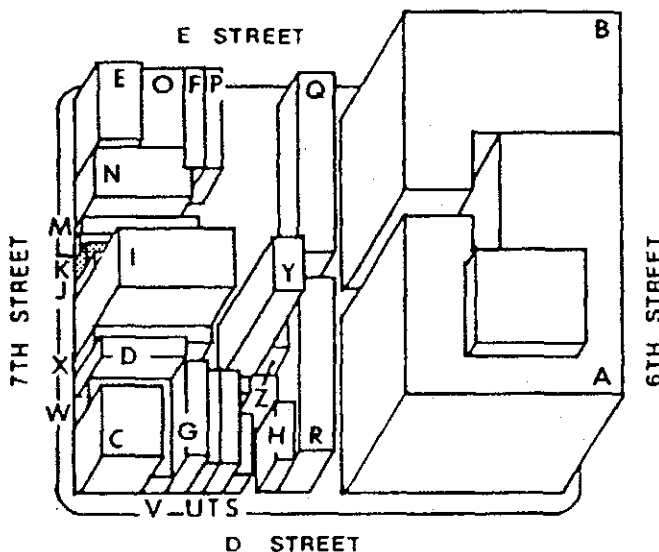
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

HABS No. DC-606

HABS  
DC,  
WASH.,  
346-

427 and 429 Seventh Street, NW  
(George and Company)  
Lot 823



This documentation was produced for mitigation purposes by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. Additional documentation exists for Square 457, within which this structure stands. For photographs, historical, and descriptive data on Square 457, see HABS No. DC-597.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The structure is sited on a rectangular lot that lies approximately one hundred forty-five feet to the south of the intersection of Seventh and E Streets. It measures thirty feet in width and is one hundred twenty feet deep. Its main access lies on the west, from the Seventh Street sidewalk, but its services from the rear or east through an alley. The building covers the entire site, has an exterior brick shell and is composed of two distinct parts. On the west stands a three story (plus basement and attic) structure with a gable roof set on a north-south axis. The rear (east) portion consists of a flat-roofed rectangular wing, one story high, abutting the main building for its full width. There are lateral party walls shared with lower structures on both sides. Thus, the irregular and asymmetrical corbiegable ends on the north and south are exposed. The south gable incorporates a tall rectangular chimney on its eastern slope. The main facade, presumably of brick, has been entirely covered with a cladding system consisting of flush panels mounted in a rectangular aluminum framework. This condition renders it impossible to stylistically identify the building, although the roof, height and rear elevation are indicative of a Greek or Colonial Revival styles. The design features a full width storefront at ground level, with two show windows and a recessed central doorway. The second and third floors present a curtain-wall treatment articulated into two floors and divided by mullions into six vertical portions. The color of the cladding panels is a slate gray, with bronze-finish aluminum divisions. The rear or east elevation of the taller, older structure present segmental-arched windows openings which on the third floor have been bricked in.

The building is presently occupied by a men's wear store that utilizes the ground floor as a sales room and the second floor as offices. The basement and third floor are storage areas; the attic is not used. This uppermost level, while extremely deteriorated, appears to contain its original finishes. The remaining floors have been up-dated and remodeled to meet contemporary demands.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Unfortunately, the street elevation has been concealed by the relatively recent addition of a curtain wall, thereby impeding the stylistic identification of the building's facade. Information derived from the building permits indicates that the building antedates 1880. The 1857 Boschke map of Washington shows a structure standing on the site by that date, but it is impossible to confirm that it represents the existing building. The side and rear eleva-

tions, as well as finishes on the attic space corroborate the relative antiquity of this structure. Furthermore, on the eastern portion of the basement, the old stone foundation still supports the bearing masonry walls.

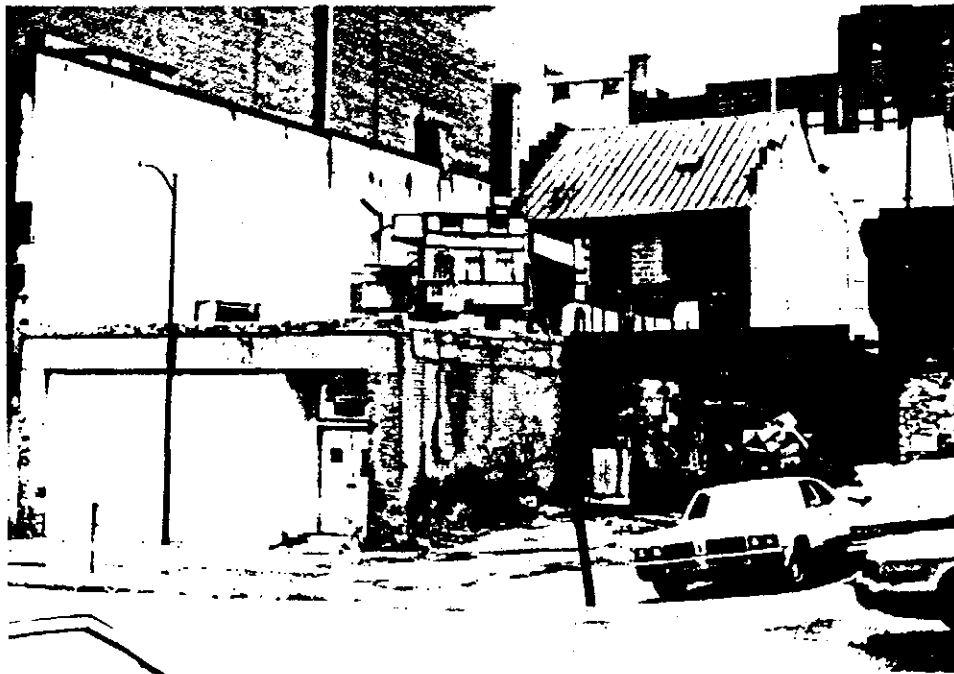
The building appears today as a drastic disfigurement of its original image. The curtain wall cladding, aside from obscuring a probable traditional facade, contributes to the visual fragmentation of the once cohesive environment of this district. The articulation of the new blind facade into floors and bays is ineffective and cannot counteract the inappropriateness of the materials and coloration of the design.

On this site and perhaps this building, were located the National Era offices, once a prominent newspaper and original publishers of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

September 1979



SEVENTH STREET (WEST)  
FACADE



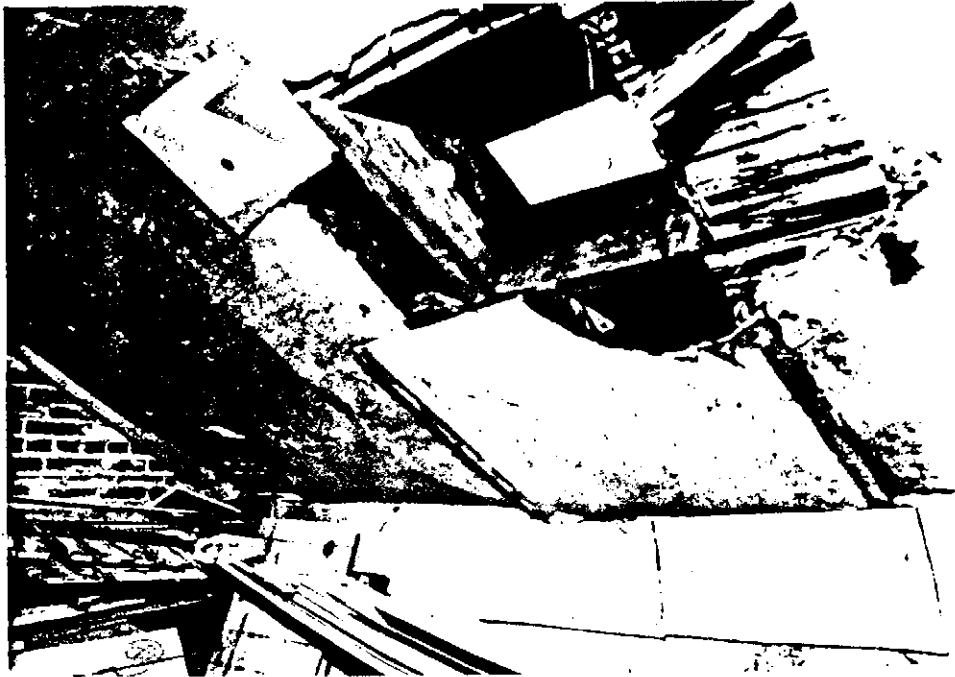
OBLIQUE VIEW OF REAR OF BUILDING FROM THE NORTHEAST.



OBLIQUE VIEW FROM THE NORTHWEST OF NORTH WALL



NORTH ELEVATION: DETAIL OF CORBIE GABLE AND CHIMNEY



DETAIL OF ATTIC



DETAIL OF BRICK AND STONE FOUNDATION WALLS AT REAR (WEST)  
PORTION OF NORTH WALL (SOUTH WALL IS SIMILAR)

Lot 12 (Sublots 822 and 823)  
425, 427-429 Seventh Street

Lot 12 measures approximately 50 feet on the Seventh Street side and 120 feet along its east-west axis. Lot 12 subdivided into two smaller sublots. The southern one, subplot 822, corresponds to 425 Seventh Street. The northern half, or subplot 823, corresponds to 427-429 Seventh Street.

1819.....The Washington Tax Records indicate that lot 12 was assessed in the name of Alexander Kerr.

1824.....Alexander Kerr was assessed \$1406.00 for lot 12.

1829/33..Kerr's assessment rose to \$2445.00 for lot 12.

Lot 12 (Sublot 823)  
427-429 Seventh Street

1844.....The District of Columbia Tax Records indicate that lot 12 subdivided into two sublots about this time. The northern half, or sublot 822 was assessed \$1439.00 to J. C. McKelden.

1834  
to

1865.....The city directories list a barber John McKelden as the occupant of 429 Seventh Street.

1840  
to

1891.....The city directories list John Vogt, a baker and confectioner as the tenant at 429 Seventh Street.

1895.....The northern half of lot 12 was assessed \$6834.00 to John McKelden.

1870.....John McKelden's assessment dropped to \$5600.00 for lot 823.

1878/79..The tax records indicate that the lot was assessed \$16,187.00 John D. Vogt.

1883/84..Vogt's assessment remained at \$16,187.00.

1884.....A building permit was issued on November 17 to 427-429 Seventh Street to build a bathroom (Permit No. 927; cost; \$250.00).

1885  
to

1896.....The city directories list Carl Peterson, a jeweler, as the tenant of 427 Seventh Street.

1891.....A building permit issued on April 1st granted permission to make general repairs to the brick building used as a store (Permit No. 1866; Builder; H.F. Getz; Cost: \$2500.00).

1893/94..John S. Vogt was assessed \$19,784.00 for the lot and \$6400.00 for the improvements to the property.

1895.....A building permit was issued to repair the rear wall and build up new piers in the cellar (Permit No. 507; Builder; Henry Klinge; Cost; \$100.00.

1899/  
1900.....The assessment for lot 823 remained at \$19,784.00 for the ground value; however, the value of improvements dropped to \$5500.00.

1899.....A September 14 building permit authorized the construction of one vault in the building (Permit No. 487; cost; \$450.00).

1900  
to  
1927.....The city directories list the Grant Union Tea Company as an occupant of 427-429 Seventh Street.

1909.....A building permit issued on August 17th authorized the extension of the rear building (Permit No. 1863; Architect: Oscar Vogt; Cost: \$450.00).

1911  
to  
1924.....Dr. Wyeth, a dentist, was listed as a tenant of 427-429 Seventh Street.

1916.....A building permit issued on March 16th was issued to replace the show windows (Permit No. 3852; Architect: R.S.T. Atkinson).

1928  
to  
1942.....The city directories list the Darley's Credit Company as the occupant of 427-429 Seventh Street.

1944.....A permit was issued to open a department store on March 11 (Permit No. 267,290; Architect: R.C. Archer).

1945.....A February 15th granted permission to make alterations in the existing show windows (Permit No. 275,981; Builder: M. Cladney Company; Architect: Victor Eberherd).

1948.....A building permit authorized the repair of a three-story building retail store roof on February 6th (Permit No. 302,917).

On February 20th of the same year a permit to revise the previous permit was issued to replace the columns and piers (Permit No. 303,315; Cost: \$100.00).

1954  
to

1956.....The Mortons Boy's Town Co. occupied the building according to the city directories.

1967.....The Muntz T.V. and Hi-Fi store occupied the building.

1981.....The building is presently occupied by a men's wear store that utilizes the ground floor as a sales room and the second floor as offices.

## SOURCES

Baist Real Estate Atlas

Bastert and Enthoffer Plat Maps

Boyd's City Directories

District of Columbia Building Permits

District of Columbia General Assessment Records

District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds

District of Columbia Surveyor's Office Records

District of Columbia Tax Records

Hopkins Real Estate Atlas

Polk's City Directories

Property Map for Downtown Urban Renewal Area for District of Columbia Redevelopment  
Land Agency

Sanborn Insurance Map